

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



SERVICE NOTES AND NEWS

AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANGES IN THE HIGHER COMMAND

The Air Ministry announces the following appointments:—
Air Vice-Marshal Ernest Leslie Gossage, D.S.O., M.C., to be Air Officer Commanding, No. 11 (Fighter) Group on September 7, 1936, vice Air Marshal Philip Bennet Joubert de la Ferté, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Air Commodore Conway Walter Heath Pulford, O.B.E., A.F.C., to be Superintendent of Royal Air Force Reserve and Inspector of Civil Flying Training Schools on September 21, 1936, vice Group Captain Robert Leckie, D.S.O., D.S.C., D.F.C., A.D.C.

Group Captain Robert Leckie, D.S.O., D.S.C., D.F.C., A.D.C., to be Director of Training at the Air Ministry on October 5, 1936, vice Air Commodore Arthur William Tedder.

Air Vice-Marshal Gossage was appointed to a commission in the Royal Field Artillery in 1910 and was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps as a Flying Officer in 1915 after graduating at the Central Flying School. During the Great War he served in France and for his services he received the D.S.O. and the M.C., besides being mentioned in despatches on four occasions. In August, 1919, he was appointed to a permanent commission as a Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force on resigning his commission in the Army.

Since the Great War, besides commanding the School of Army Co-operation, Air Vice-Marshal Gossage has passed a course at the Staff College, Camberley, and in 1925 he became a member of the directing staff at that College. In 1928 he was appointed Deputy Director of Staff Duties at the Air Ministry and two years later he became Air Attaché at His Majesty's Embassy in Berlin. Subsequently he held appointments as Senior Air Staff Officer, both at home and in Iraq, until he became Air Officer Commanding British Forces in Aden in December, 1935.

Air Vice-Marshal Gossage was promoted Wing Commander in 1921, Group Captain in 1928, Air Commodore in 1932, and to his present rank in January, 1936.

Air Comdre. Pulford entered the Royal Navy in 1910, became a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service in 1914, and graduated at the Central Flying School the following year. For his services with various units afloat during the Great War he received the O.B.E. and the A.F.C., besides the French Croix de Guerre. In August, 1919, he was granted a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force, as a Squadron Leader.

Since the Great War, Air Comdre. Pulford has commanded several Royal Air Force units, and after passing a course at the Royal Air Force Staff College was, in 1923, employed on Air Staff Duties at the Air Ministry. Subsequently he completed a course at the Imperial Defence College and commanded the Station Headquarters, Heliopolis, from 1932 until 1934, when he was appointed to command the Air Armament School.

Air Comdre. Pulford was promoted Wing Commander in 1925, Group Captain in 1932, and to his present rank in July, 1936.

Group Capt. Leckie was commissioned in the Royal Naval Air Service in 1915 and during the Great War served conspicuously in coastal defence units, gaining the D.S.C., D.S.O., and D.F.C. for his services in action against invading enemy airships and submarines. In 1919 he was seconded to the Canadian Air Force and for three years held the appointment of Director of Flying Operations at the Canadian Air Board. On his return to the Royal Air Force in 1922 he was posted to the School of Technical Training (Boys), Halton, and later attended a course at the Royal Naval Staff College. Subsequently in 1923 Group Capt. Leckie was employed on Technical Staff Duties and as Senior Air Force Officer in H.M.S. *Hermes* in 1926. In 1929 he commanded the Royal Air Force Station at Bircham Newton and No. 210 (F.B.) Squadron in 1931. On appointment as Superintendent of the Royal Air Force Reserve in 1933 he was given the command of the Royal Air Force Station at Hendon. He was promoted Wing Commander in 1926 and to his present rank in 1933. He was appointed Air Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King in August, 1935.

APPOINTMENT OF AIR ATTACHÉ

Wing Cdr. Harold Spencer Kerby, D.S.C., A.F.C., has been appointed to succeed Group Capt. Robert Peel Willock as Air Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy at Peking at the end of October, 1936.

ANOTHER RESERVE CATEGORY

The Air Ministry announces:—

In order to increase the present reserve of fully trained pilots to meet the requirements of the expanded Royal Air Force a special category of a limited number of reserve pilots will be established in the near future. These reserve pilots on entry will pass through the same full course of training as that attended by pilots of the regular Air Force, lasting for approximately twelve months. They will be trained on elementary and service types of aircraft at civil and service flying training schools. Whilst training at civil schools they will serve under conditions as regards emoluments, leave, etc., similar to those for pupils under training for commissions in the regular Air Force.

On proceeding to R.A.F. Depot when the civil school training is complete, reserve pilots will be appointed to the acting rank of pilot officer (on probation) and will be eligible for confirmation in rank after twelve months' service. Whilst at the R.A.F. Depot and during subsequent service at flying training schools they will receive the emoluments appropriate to their rank. On completion of their period of training reserve pilots will revert to civil life to complete their reserve service.

This scheme is designed to appeal to young men who can spare the twelve months required for training before embarking upon a career and who are able to make satisfactory arrangements regarding their re-employment in civil life after completion of the course of training. In this respect this scheme differs from the scheme for the raising of the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, regarding which an announcement was made by the Secretary of State for Air in the House of Lords on July 30 last. The latter scheme is primarily designed to provide less intensive training under conditions which will permit the entry of the candidates in large numbers without interruption of their civil occupations.

Selected candidates under the one-year training scheme will be appointed to commissions in Class A of the Reserve of Air Force Officers for a period of five years' service, and, in addition to attending the initial course of training in their first year of service, they will be liable to attend for not more than twenty-four days' annual training in subsequent years. They will receive a retaining fee of £25 a year for each year after the first. Candidates must be between their 18th and 25th birthdays and must be approximately of the educational standard required for the School Certificate of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. They must be able to give twelve months' continuous whole time attendance for training.

The first course under this scheme will commence early in October next and intending candidates are asked to apply immediately to the Secretary, Air Ministry (S.7.e.Reserve), Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for particulars.

No. 4 (ARMY CO-OPERATION) SQUADRON

No. 4 (Army Co-operation) Squadron is located at Ford Aerodrome from August 8 to September 19 inclusive.

FORMATION OF NEW SQUADRONS

No. 83 (Bomber) Squadron formed at Turnhouse on August 4. The unit is being equipped with the light bomber type of aircraft and has been placed under the command of the A.O.C.-in-C., Bomber Command, in No. 2 (Bomber) Group.

No. 151 (Fighter) Squadron formed at North Weald on August 4. The unit is being equipped with fighter aircraft and has been placed under the command of the A.O.C.-in-C., Fighter Command, in No. 11 (Fighter) Group.

PENSIONED R.A.F. WARRANT OFFICERS AS ASSISTANT STORES AND BARRACK OFFICERS

It has been decided to appoint a small number of pensioned R.A.F. warrant officers (stores and accountant) as civilian assistant stores and barrack officers. The appointments will be subject to one month's notice on either side, and will carry a fixed salary at the rate of £225 a year. The duration of the appointments will depend on general service requirements, and may not exceed two years.

Applications from eligible warrant officers now in the United Kingdom are invited and should be addressed to the Air Ministry as soon as possible.